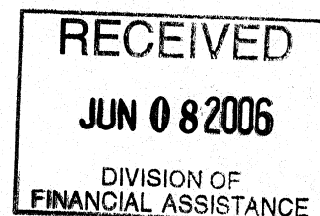




Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

65 Main Street, Suite 107, Templeton, CA 93465 / (805) 434-0396 ext. 4 / fax 434-0284



June 6, 2006

Curtis Weeks, General Manager
Monterey County Water Resources Agency
P.O. Box 930
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93902

RE: Nacimiento and San Antonio River Integrated Watershed Management Plan Consolidated Grant Application 9069

Dear Mr. Weeks:

As the Executive Director of the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (US-LT RCD), I express support for the Nacimiento and San Antonio River Integrated Watershed Management Plan Consolidated Grant Application 9069 to the State Water Resources Control Board. This project, which has been submitted by the Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA), will be a significant planning tool for the future of these two critical watersheds. Historically, the Nacimiento and San Antonio River watersheds provided the greatest flows and have the greatest diversity of vegetation and wildlife in the Salinas River Watershed.

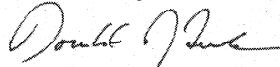
The development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for these source subwatersheds will develop an integrated solution to water resource management issues that affect an extensive constituency in two counties. It is also an important subset of the integrated regional water resource planning being initiated by MCWRA at larger scales, including the Salinas Valley, Salinas River watershed, and Greater Monterey Bay Region. The Plan will also be a furtherance of the approved Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan, which covers approximately half of the entire 4,000 square miles of the Salinas River drainage area. Per our discussions with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency, the US-LT RCD will be one of the partners in the grant work.

In addition to meeting the strategies of the Upper Salinas River Watershed Action Plan, this grant will allow development of a Plan that will focus on the environmental and economic well being of the watersheds through stewardship. The Plan will direct strategic and comprehensive management of watershed natural resources in a practical, cost effective and responsible manner. The Plan will also provide protection and improvement of water quality for beneficial uses consistent with regional community interests, which is also one of the primary goals of the US-LT RCD.

The US-LT RCD currently is working with many of the landowners in the Nacimiento River Watershed. This project will foster a closer working relationship between local, state and federal agencies which are major landholders as well as public and private stakeholders interested in management of the lakes watershed lands.

The development of this plan for the Nacimiento and San Antonio River Watersheds will merge various strategies and develop effective solutions for water resources management and water quality programs, natural resource enhancement and other measures common to the region. The project is within the jurisdictional area of the US-LT RCD and it meets many of the goals of our agency. Therefore, we support this collaborative effort that will ultimately preserve and protect water quality in important agricultural and urban drainage of Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. I strongly encourage the State Water Resources Control Board to favorably consider this application for the Proposition 40, Integrated Watershed Management Program.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Funk
Executive Director